

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A012000050001-2

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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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31 August 1968

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No. 0249/68  
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[ Czechoslovakia: The Soviets and their allies are more openly asserting their influence as the Dubcek regime continues to implement restrictions called for in the Moscow agreement.

Far from abstaining in Czechoslovak domestic affairs, the Soviets seem to be on the verge of making new arrests. Pravda today called for the liquidation of 40,000 "counterrevolutionaries" in Czechoslovakia, warning that the struggle is far from over. This follows reports that on 30 August, Prime Minister Cernik, in a private briefing for journalists, advised the nation's intellectuals to "get out while they can," as he can guarantee the safety of no one, not even himself. In Belgrade, Deputy Prime Minister Sik, out of fear of arrest, will reportedly await clarification of the situation in Prague before returning home. The associate editor of Literarni Listy fled to West Germany after his journal ceased to publish rather than bow to censorship.

Soviet security forces, meanwhile, are continuing to take over key posts in important ministries. Several liberal ministers, including the minister of interior, are said to be ready to resign.

The Czechoslovak Government announced on 30 August the establishment of an office to control the press, radio, television, and the news service CTK, while formal legislation on information control is being drawn up. The press already has begun to exercise restraint. In Brno, Mlada Fronta, the press organ of the youth organization, appeared on Friday with two blank columns.

Dubcek has called for a meeting today of the pre-invasion Czechoslovak party central committee to elect a new presidium, according to unconfirmed Western press reports. Dubcek's action implicitly repudiates the progressive central committee elected ]

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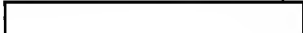
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[ by the extraordinary 14th party congress last week. The Soviet Union has denounced the extraordinary congress as illegal. There are reports the congress will be reconvened on 9 September, the original date set prior to the intervention.

Radio Czechoslovakia on Friday broadcast a statement of the Central Committee of the National Front asking the government to negotiate an agreement to ensure the departure of foreign armed forces so that "the full sovereignty of our state is restored." In tacit recognition that the occupation may last indefinitely, however, the National Front also "insisted unconditionally" on noninterference in Czechoslovak internal affairs by occupying forces. The Council of the Central Trade Union Organization passed a resolution on Friday expressing the worker support for Dubcek's reformist Action Program and insisting on the quickest possible withdrawal of foreign armies from the country.

There has been no substantial change detected in the status of the occupation troops in Czechoslovakia.  (Map) ]

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[ South Vietnam: A variety of indicators point to 2 September as the target date for enemy military actions, perhaps on a countrywide scale.

Communist forces in the III Corps area continued to be very active on 30 August, launching numerous mortar and artillery attacks on allied positions and conducting occasional small-scale ground probes. [ ] these actions are designed to mask the movement of sizable enemy forces toward Saigon.

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The enemy also is still trying to place his forces around allied positions in northern I Corps and along the coast in the Da Nang area. Several sharp clashes occurred on 30 August in southern I Corps as allied forces maneuvered to interrupt enemy moves.

Most of the latest fighting was centered in the Da Nang and Quang Ngai city areas. US Marines and ARVN units operating some ten miles southwest of Da Nang reported killing 111 Communists while the allies lost 10 killed and 73 wounded. Some 12 miles west of Quang Ngai city an allied special forces camp was attacked by elements of the North Vietnamese 3rd Division. The camp's defenders have reportedly taken some 29 casualties in the initial stages of the battle. [ ] (Map) ]

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Guatemala: The threat of further terrorist action hangs over the country, but the government apparently will not bow to Communist demands.

Colonel Mendez Montenegro, brother of the president and military chief of the presidential staff, fears that the pro-Cuban Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) may follow up its murder of the US ambassador with further attacks on US personnel or on other diplomats and government officials. The FAR has publicly threatened a series of reprisals if the government does not bring to public trial one of its leaders who was captured last week.

During a meeting of government leaders on 28 August, a police official responded to a suggestion that the FAR chieftain be freed by angrily asserting that the prisoner would not be released even if the FAR "abducted every minister in the cabinet."

Meanwhile, the government's intensive search for the ambassador's killers continued through the nights of 29 and 30 August. The police have an arrest list of 150 names and an unidentified government eyewitness to the slaying is reported to have tentatively identified some of the terrorists who took part in the murder. None of those identified has as yet been arrested.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Mexico: Student plans to stage demonstrations Sunday during the president's annual state of the union address could spark additional serious disorders.

The explosion of a small bomb at the US ambassador's residence yesterday indicates that violence may begin even earlier. The government appears determined, however, to deal firmly with the protesters and end the student strike before the presidential address. Strikers--especially the extremist leaders--also appear bent on violence, and are preparing "to defend" the university campus with arms and molotov cocktails. Many students reportedly believe that a dialogue with the government over their demands is no longer possible.

The students may have overplayed their hand when they occupied the capital's main square and the national cathedral on 27 August and raised the black and red flag of anarchy in place of the flag of Mexico. Mexicans who were sympathetic to many of the student demands have been offended by these actions and by the vulgar attacks on the president.

[REDACTED]

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Turkey: Turkish officials appear determined to prevent any serious trouble during the current visit to Izmir of the US Sixth Fleet. A protest demonstration on 29 August by a few hundred leftists, mostly students, ended in a brief donnybrook between the leftists and a much larger rightist group. Several leftists were injured. No Americans were involved. Given the tougher attitude being taken by Turkish authorities, the political left may soon shift to a strategy of passive resistance and neutralist propaganda. [REDACTED]

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Somalia-Ethiopia: Somali Prime Minister Egal is due in Addis Ababa on 1 September for talks on improving relations between the two countries. The visit, which is in response to a belated Ethiopian offer of concessions to Egal and his detente policy, may help end the current stalemate between the two countries. Although the specific details of the offer are not known, the concessions were apparently sufficient for Egal to accept the invitation, even in the face of growing criticism in Mogadiscio that his conciliation policy has produced no favorable results. [REDACTED]

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